

At the FWP Commission meeting last wk about bison relocation
a major point of opposition was disease placement might introduce

SENATE FISH AND GAME

EXHIBIT NO. 24

DATE 1/20/11

SENATE BILL 144

I am herein submitting these statements and comments for the public record in regards to Senate Bill 144, which bans the placement of bison anywhere in Montana, except Moiese.

Brucellosis is not the issue. The bison to be relocated are disease free. They have been in quarantine for years and each has been tested over 20 times. In addition, the program design says that they will stay together in a secure area for another 5 years to continue the study. So what are the problems that are so great that the quarantined bison that taxpayers have spent millions of dollars on, to ensure their disease free state, now cannot be placed on public and tribal lands, which was the intent from the beginning of the IBMP process. The permit from the National Park Service states the intent of the program to be the establishment of bison herds for tribal and public land

another point of opposition was that livestock producers would be impacted economically. There are 87 art's and a small group for place these are small numbers

In 2004, FWP said that the release of bison on public land would be ready by the time a quarantine pasture is ready. Now, 2011, there is no placement. FWP was starting to look at future placement of bison on public and tribal lands, and now this bill will slam the door on any placement. It makes no sense to have a successful quarantine/testing program thrown out because of this legislative action. It is a failure to not put bison on public and tribal lands, and that the public is not willing to accept. As you can tell by the number of opponents to Senate Bill 144 failure is not an option.

The bison reintroduction process needs to move forward and address concerns to find a large landscape for bison to live as wildlife

Nancy Schultz

420 North 10th Ave.

Bozeman, MT 59715